

Story #126 (Tape #72, 1961-62)

Narrator: Hasan Özgürbüz

Location: Kula, kaza town in the
province of Manisa

Date: 1962

The Devil and the Man of Kayseri

The Devil was visiting the town of Kayseri once, looking for a job there or something to do. After he had been there a short while, a citizen of Kayseri said to him, "Let us become partners."

"Very well," said the Devil. "What shall we do?"

us do some farming," said the Kayseri man
right, then, and let us begin work at once."

Well, the Kayseri man had an ox with which to do the plowing, and the Devil bought seed wheat to sow. The two of them planted the wheat and tended the crop until harvest time. When the wheat was ripe and ready to cut, the Devil asked the Kayseri man, "Which part of the field do you want to have?"

take the top half and you can have the bottom half."

"That's fine," said the Devil. Later, however, he realized that he had been cheated. The Kayseri man cut the top half of all the wheat and left just the straw for the Devil. The Devil said nothing, but he was very angry and determined to take his revenge upon the partner. He agreed, therefore, to remain in partnership with the Kayseri man for another year.

When it was time to plant their crop the following year, they decided to sow garlic. Again, they worked together on this crop all summer and came together again in the harvest time to gather their produce.

"Well, partner, this time you choose the part of the crop that you want,"

said the Kayseri man.

"Partner," said the Devil, "last time you cheated me. But I don't mind, for this time I shall take the top half of the crop." --The Devil did not know that he had cheated himself this time, but he blamed the Kayseri man and swore that he would never come to that city again.

Then the Kayseri man dug up all the garlic roots and sold them for a good price. So, the Kayseri man had cheated the Devil twice. That is just how Kayseri men are--they cheat the Devil and the country too!